

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Method of processing IP packets at layer three level in a telecommunication equipment, the equipment comprising a first box containing layer 4 protocols, and a second box containing hardware interfaces and layer 2 drivers, the method comprising the following steps in the following order, which are performed by a first termination block:

in the incoming direction:

validating IP packet packets by performing checksvalidation,
managing options field by interpreting all the options that said first termination block understands and preserving unaltered all other options options field management,
filtering,
deciding first next layer decision and forwarding;

in the outgoing direction:

managing redirect by checking if the packet that is going to be sent satisfies the following conditions:
the IP packet has been received from a same interface over which it is going out,

the source address belongs to a sub-network of a next-hop,
there is no source route optionredirect management,

managing TTL by considering a valid packet any IP packet addressed to the equipment and with TTL equal to 0
TTL management,
managing source address management,
managing options field by interpreting all the options that said first termination block understands and preserving unaltered all other options field management,
packet fragmentation
fragmenting packets when the packet to be routed has a size greater than a Maximum Transmission Unit.

2. (currently amended): Method according to claim 1, wherein, in case of IP packets originated from or destined to the equipment, said method further comprising the following steps in the following order, which are performed by a second termination block:

in the incoming direction, after the first next layer decision and forwarding step:

validating the IP packet
validation by performing checks,
reassembling packet
reasembly
incoming fragmented packets,
managing options field by management
interpreting all options that said second termination block understands,
deciding second next layer decision and forwarding
by stripping the header and
forwarding the payload to the upper client layers using the protocol as selector;

in the outgoing direction, before the redirect management step of managing redirect:

multiplexing ef
IP payloads
coming from different upper layer protocols,
managing options field management, and

~~generation of generating IP headerheaders.~~

3. (currently amended): Method according to claim 2, wherein, in case of IP packets to be emitted by the equipment, the following steps are performed by a connection block:

in the incoming direction, after the step of deciding first next layer ~~decision~~ and forwarding-step:

performing a first lookup step ~~is performed~~ in order to decide the destination of the incoming packet,

in the outgoing direction, before the step of managing redirect ~~management~~ step and after the step of generation ofgenerating the IP header-step:

performing a second lookup step ~~is performed~~ in order to decide the destination of the outgoing packet.

4. (currently amended): Method according to claim 3, wherein, in case of IP in IP tunneling, in the incoming direction, after the step of deciding first next layer and forwarding and before the first lookup step, said method further comprisescomprises the following steps, which are performed by a tunnel termination block in the following order:

in the incoming direction, after the first next layer decision and forwarding step and before the lookup step:

determine determining which headers must be stripped,
strip-stripping the tunnel headers,

process-processing the TTL of the stripped headers with the exception of the first one already processed in a preceding step,

process-processing the CRC of all the stripped headers with the exception of the first one already processed in a preceding step,

and the following steps are performed by the first termination block:

validating the IP packet validation packets by performing checks,

managing options field management by interpreting all the options that said first termination block understands and preserving unaltered all the other options,

filtering,

deciding third next layer decision and forwarding;

in the outgoing direction, after the second lookup step and before the step of managing redirect, it further comprises the following steps, which are performed by the first termination block in the following order management step:

managing redirect management by checking if the packet that is going to be sent satisfies the following conditions:

the IP packet has been received from a same interface over which the IP packet is going out,

the source address belongs to a sub-network of a next-hop,

there is no source route option,

managing TTL by considering a valid packet any IP packet addressed to the equipment and with TTL equal to 0 management,

managing source address management,
managing options field by interpreting all the options that said first termination
block understands and preserving unaltered all other optionsmanagement,
fragmenting said packet fragmentation, when the packet to be routed has a size
greater than said Maximum Transmission Unit;
and the following steps performed by said tunnel termination block:
determine determining which tunnels must be created,
validate validating IP address of the incoming packet versus tunnel addresses,
make making address translation from client receiver to tunnel endpoint address
and vice versa,
insertion inserting of external header,
process processing the external header fields forcing the fragmentation flag to “do
not fragment” value,
process processing the external header options field,
calculate calculating external header checksum,
make making path MTU recovery,
in case errors occurred in transmission, send sending ICMP messages to the
originator of the messages being routed in the tunnel.

5. (currently amended): Method according to claim 3, further comprising the
following steps which are performed by a MPLS box:

in the incoming direction, before the first IP packet validation step:

input processing MPLS packet input processing packets,

in the outgoing direction, after the second lookup step:

output processing an MPLS packet output processing.

6. (currently amended): Method according to claim 4, further comprising the following steps which are performed by a MPLS box:

in the incoming direction, before the first IP packet validation step:

input processing MPLS packet input processing packets,

in the outgoing direction, after the second lookup step:

output processing an MPLS packet output processing.

7. (currently amended): Method of processing MPLS packets at layer three level in a telecommunication equipment, the equipment comprising a first box containing layer 4 protocols, and a second box containing hardware interfaces and layer 2 drivers, the method comprising the following steps in the following order, which are performed by a MPLS box:

in the incoming direction:

count counting received frames and number of octets through an incoming termination block of said MPLS box,

validate validating MPLS packets against label range through said incoming termination block,

determining an interface identification through said incoming termination block, determine the interface identification, count counting of received packets and number of octets through a first incoming adaptation block of said MPLS box, strip stripping of the an external MPLS header retrieving the stripped information through said first incoming adaptation block, lookup looking up for the a destination of the an incoming MPLS packet through a connection block of said MPLS box, deciding next layer decision based at least on End_of_Stack flag through a termination block of said MPLS box, forwarding to the next layer through said termination block forwarding, managing TTL through a second incoming adaptation block and through an adaptation block of said MPLS box management, if next-hop is not the equipment itself, determining PHB through said second incoming adaptation block and through said adaptation block determination; in the outgoing direction: extract extracting TTL from a received outgoing client packet through said adaptation block, pass passing on the received outgoing client packet as a stripped MPLS packet together with FEC, PHB, TTL through said adaptation block, generate generating an End_of_Stack bit through said termination block,

pass-passing on the stripped MPLS packet together with FEC, PHB, TTL and End_of_Stack through said termination block,

lookup-looking up for the destination of outgoing client packets with FEC originated by the equipment through said connection block,

managing TTL through an outgoing adaptation block of said MPLS box;management

creation of creating a new MPLS header and setting EXP bits according to said PHB through said outgoing adaptation block,

count-counting of transmitted packets and number of octets through said outgoing adaptation block,

pass-performing MPLS fragmentation and passing on MPLS packet, PHB, and Next Hop through an outgoing termination block of said MPLS box.

8. (currently amended): Method according to claim 7, wherein, in case of multiple MPLS encapsulation,

in the incoming direction, the processing steps are repeated on stripped MPLS packet;

in the outgoing direction, all the necessary MPLS labels required for multiple MPLS encapsulation are pushed during one MPLS header creation step.

9. (original): Method according to claim 7, wherein, in case of penultimate hop,

in the incoming direction, the client packet is forwarded to the lower layer is stripped and emitted.

10. (original): Method according to claim 8, wherein, in case of penultimate hop, in the incoming direction, the client packet is forwarded to the lower layer is stripped and emitted.

11. (original): Method according to claim 7, wherein the client packet is an IP packet.

12. (original): Method according to claim 7, wherein the client packet is an Ethernet frame.

13. (original): Telecommunication equipment comprising means adapted to carry out the method according to claim 1.

14. (original): Computer program product comprising computer program code means adapted to perform all the steps of the method according to claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.

15. (original): Computer readable medium having a program recorded thereon, said computer readable medium comprising computer program code means adapted to perform all the steps of the method according to claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.